



Sheffield TIMES

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA, SECOND GENERATION Vol. III, Issue 5 May/June 2004



A bigger village green for Sheffield Center? That's one of the many proposals being discussed in the Master Plan. This aerial view shows the current configuration in the center of Sheffield.

MASTER PLAN NEEDS YOUR INPUT

Should the number of houses in the part of Sheffield you live in double in the next 10 years? What if Sheffield Center were easier to walk around in, with a larger town green and slower traffic on Route 7? How much of your property taxes will go to pay for the school in the next decade? What if there were a central clearinghouse of help and information for businesses in town and those wanting to come to town? How do we provide workforce housing?

Those and many other issues facing the town in the coming years are being addressed in the Sheffield Master Plan. The drafting process is nearing its conclusion after two years of collecting information and viewpoints and pulling them together. Dozens of volunteers have spent hundreds of hours so far on the project. It began in 2001 when the town Selectmen accepted \$110,000 in two grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Selectmen then appointed a Steering Committee to work with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and hire a state-approved consultant.

The Master Plan Steering Committee hopes that more Sheffield residents will join in the public review that will occur in late June. Dates are currently being scheduled and will be

• widely publicized, with a summary of the plan to be mailed to all Sheffield residents beforehand.

Most sections of the Plan currently exist in a second or third draft and copies are available at Town Hall and the Bushnell-Sage Library for public review.

It was originally hoped to hold the public meetings in May, but with so many aspects of the town to research and consider, the process has taken longer than expected.

There's still a lot of work to be done to finish the draft for submission to the state by the grant's deadline of June 30, and the Town is exploring bringing in additional help to facilitate the current phase of the plan, building on the work of consulting firm Dufresne-Henry.

While according to state regulations it's up to a town's planning board to officially adopt the Master Plan, it is not just the Planning Board that carries its recommendations forward.

The Plan covers much more than the usual planning arena of road-frontage, lot size and set-back requirements. It's more of a "community action plan," with lots of facts about Sheffield and how it's growing and lots of ideas about how to help Sheffield grow while keeping

the qualities residents value, such as Sheffield's small town, rural character.

Consequently, the plan calls for action by many aspects of town government and community organizations and suggests the creation of new boards or advisory councils to aid the town in the areas of economic development, open space, housing and other areas.

Some of the ideas under discussion include:

- Creating a visitors' center.
- Developing a "Sheffield brand" for products made in town.
- Building a permanent or semi-permanent space for the Farmers' Market of Sheffield.
- Promoting agriculture-related activities and businesses at the Sheffield Business Park.

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Submit articles, news items, photos or illustrations
Spotted any interesting wildlife? Have a good idea for a story? Taken a great picture of an interesting Sheffield scene? Let us know!

Send suggestions and submissions to the P.O. Box or e-mail address below. News briefs can be one or two sentences, short articles between 150 and 450 words. Run suggestions for feature stories by the editors first.

Tell us about your events

Calendar items should be directed to the attention of the Calendar Editor and include a contact name and number in case there are questions.

Advertise in the *Sheffield Times*

We accept ads for services and products connected with Sheffield. Eighth-pages to half-pages available, more details on this page. Contact Tara White at 229-7754 or tarabw@vgernet.net for rates or more information.

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JULY/AUGUST ISSUE
DEADLINE: JUNE 11

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- From outside of Sheffield: services, etc., that benefit Sheffield residents.
- No editorial or political ads.

For more information or to place an ad, contact Tara White at 229-7754 or tarabw@vgernet.net.

July/August Issue
Deadline: June 11.

Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA.

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THANK YOU!

To everyone who contributed this year and during our spring campaign to help keep the *Sheffield Times* going! To anyone we missed, we'll get you into the next issue. For those who still want to give, there is a contribution slip on the last page of each issue.

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- Expanding the use of the school facilities to help defray rising school costs.
- Building recreational trails around town.
- Providing support for Sheffield's many cottage industries, through incubator grants, mentoring and access to technical and marketing expertise.
- Developing Sheffield as a destination for visitors interested in the arts, New England history, outdoor recreation and eco-tourism.
- Adopting strategies to help Sheffield avoid sprawl.
- Revising Sheffield's zoning regulations to promote village centers and maintain the town's rural character.
- Considering a Housing Advisory group to address the need for workforce and affordable housing.

Speak up! How to have your say:

- Come to the public meetings in June
- Come to a Steering Committee meeting, Thursdays at 7pm in Town Hall, through June.
- Send comments via email to the chair of the Steering Committee, Kathy Orlando, at wildkato@aol.com.
- Talk to a Steering Committee member: Tammy Blackwell, Jared Clayton (Open Space, Recreation, Historic & Cultural, berkboy@bcn.net or 229-0363), John Downie, Sharon Gregory (Economic Development, 229-2717 or sharongregory1@cs.com), Wray Gunn, Anna James (Facilities, Services & Transportation, 229-3096 or arjames@bcn.net), Dave Macy, Jim McGarry, Kathy Orlando, chair (wildkato@aol.com or 229-8789), Don Ward (Economic Development, 229-9023), Bob Weitz, Dave West (Housing, 229-7727).

Those with far-reaching comments should try to submit them in writing, preferably in e-mail, as soon as possible.

What the Master Plan Covers

Economic Development
Facilities and Services
Historic and Cultural Resources
Housing
Land Use
Natural Resources, Open Space, Recreation & Agriculture
Transportation
And the Implementation Plan

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FARMERS' MARKET SET FOR NEW SEASON

The board of Directors of the Farmers' Market of Sheffield is looking forward to planning another great year for the market. "Every year, we try something new," says board member Dominic Palumbo "And a lot of it works!"

The 2004 season will again begin on the Friday of Mother's Day weekend, May 7, and include the Mother's Day crafts fair and the free Mother's Day raffle.

Innovations from 2003 included the introduction of the Young Farmers Table, a community table, an additional craft fair and a harvest festival at the last market of the season. These changes, as well as the addition of several vendors, increased attendance at the market throughout the season, in spite of regular Friday rainfall.

The Young Farmers Table was open to any student who raised his or her own product. One third-grader

regularly sold eggs, while a first-grader brought blackberries and other seasonal produce. They were joined at times by a boy selling chickens, a girl promoting her homemade dog biscuits and a fisherman peddling bait.

The community table is a space offered free of charge to non-profit organizations for information sharing, fund-raising and member recruitment. Many local organizations, including the Sheffield Kiwanis, 4-H, The Master Gardeners and the Sheffield Land Trust took advantage of this opportunity. "The table was located right at the entrance to the market," said vendor and board secretary Sandy Snyder, "so it was very visible. The organizers of the groups were happy with the number of contacts they made at the market. We will definitely do that again next year."

The additional crafts fair, on the other hand, was not as successful.

"September may not be a good time for crafts," said board treasurer Andy Snyder. "People are busy with other things and are not holiday shopping yet. In any event, we will not be charging the craft vendors as much this year. Last year, we charged \$25 per show and that was probably too much. We will charge less this year."

The October 10th harvest festival was a very successful ending to the 2003 season. The Young Farmers Table provided a cider squeeze and fresh pressed cider. Two community groups were in attendance. A breast cancer awareness group gave out information about a sponsored walk and the local 4-H group provided pony rides and a petting zoo. "How fun!" said customer Meredyth Babcock, who brought a whole birthday party of children to the market. "What a great way to end the season." —June Wolfe

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GAY MARRIAGE CONSIDERED AT LIBRARY BOOKTALK

With Massachusetts braced for May 17, when same-sex couples may apply for marriage licenses, about 35 people gathered at the Bushnell Sage Library April 10 to hear David Moats read from his new book, *Civil Wars: A Battle for Gay Marriage*. The event was co-sponsored by The Friends of the Library and the Bookloft. Moats is the editorial page editor of The Rutland Herald in Vermont and covered that state's tumultuous journey that finally concluded when Vermont, in 2000, became the first state in the nation to approve civil unions for gays and lesbians. He won that paper's first Pulitzer Prize for his series of editorials in support of same-sex unions.

The story he told was both passionate and deeply moving, recounting the intimate stories behind the public battle, including those of the three couples, two Lesbian and one gay, who filed the initial suit. The ruling of the Vermont Supreme Court was different from the conclusions of the Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts. In Massachusetts the Supreme Judicial Court ruled that to deprive same sex couples of the benefits of marriage also deprived them of the full benefit of the law under the Massachusetts Constitution and ordered the Commonwealth to comply. In Vermont, the Supreme Court, while reaching the same conclusion, threw the remedy back on the state's legislature and did not insist that marriage was the only option the state might consider.

Thus the battle became political and had the potential to be very divisive. To make matters worse, the issue had attracted national attention. Moats mentioned specifically Randall Terry, the founder of the antiabortion group Operation Rescue. Terry lived in the Binghamton, New York, area, and he had come to Montpelier to "mobilize the troops" against gay marriage or domestic partnership. "His rhetoric was extreme," Moats noted, "and his methods were

Sheffield's town clerk, Felecie Joyce, reports that the Commonwealth will provide briefings for clerks early in May in preparation for the May 17 deadline. She said she had received only one call from someone enquiring about obtaining a license in Sheffield.

aggressive." He is quoted as saying in a Rutland Herald story, "I'm playing hardball."

Facing intense pressure from both sides, the Legislature still managed to maintain its composure. At one point it became clear there were not enough votes to ensure passage of a bill granting marriage to same sex unions, but one promising the rights of marriage through civil unions had a chance. Although a bitter disappointment for both sides, it passed in both houses and was signed into law by then Governor Howard Dean. Moats gives special credit to a deeply personal and emotional speech in the Vermont House by its only gay legislator and to Governor Dean.

"What has happened since?" one of the audience asked. Moats replied that some 5,000 couples have filed for civil unions in the four years since the law took effect and even though the state subsequently elected enough Republican legislators to change control of the Vermont House and a Republican governor to replace Dean, it has become almost a non-issue politically.

Moats compared the struggle for gay rights in the 21st century with that of blacks in the 1960s. To underscore the relationship he includes two quotations as dedications in the front of his book. One is by Abraham Lincoln, the other by Martin Luther King, Jr. He cites Lincoln: "As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew." Martin Luther King, Jr: "A movement that changes both people and institutions is a revolution."

—John G. Wightman

REVIEW: 'ALMOST SHAKESPEAREAN' DRAMA

The true-life drama Moats chronicles is almost Shakespearean in its intricacies of plot, psychological insights, philosophical, legal, ethical, and moral perspectives, not to mention episodes both of violence and of love. Teeming with real-life people—assorted Vermonters from every walk of life and every shade of opinion—the account focuses particularly on Bill Lippert, a Democratic House member. As the only openly gay member of the Legislature, Lippert became a pivotal figure in mediating between the gay community, which was reluctant to settle for civil union rather than marriage, and his fellow

House members who feared voter backlash. After enduring with calm dignity the often vicious attacks of opponents, Lippert had also to face criticism from the gay community for his decision that it was better at that time to accept the compromise of civil union rather than no bill at all. The title of the book, *Civil Wars*, seems to imply that the Vermont struggle may presage more to come. If so, his portraits of Lippert and other Vermont citizens provide exemplary role models for civil discourse in the best American tradition.

—Millicent Gravel

HEALTHCARE NEWS

Community Health wins grant. Community Health Programs is recipient of a \$4,000 grant from the Banknorth Charitable Foundation to fund "Project Milk" and an emergency prescription drug program for the elderly. Project Milk provides an emergency three-day food basket to assist low-income families in crisis. The emergency drug program offers help to older patients of the Community Health Center who need prescription drugs but can't pay. According to Dona W. Beck, regional president for Banknorth Massachusetts, "Community Health Programs has a long history of providing services that improve the health and well-being of families and individuals. We are pleased to be able to provide this grant in support of their community outreach initiatives."

The Community Health Center of the Berkshires is located on the fourth floor of Fairview Hospital at 29 Lewis Avenue in Great Barrington. It is open five days a week and also offers after-hours coverage. A health physician or a nurse practitioner sees clients. All are served regardless of the ability to pay or health insurance status; benefit plans are available to some income eligible persons. A Spanish translator is available. For an appointment, call 413-528-8580.

VIM hires director and sets to open clinic. Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires, a not-for-profit clinic starting up in south Berkshire County, has hired Nora Hayes, a New York health-care professional, as its first executive director. Described as "action oriented, full of energy and enthusiasm, thorough and well organized" by former clients of Hayes Health Care, her consulting firm, she intends to use her extensive experience and leadership to bring the clinic to a successful reality.

VIM Berkshires plans to open the clinic this summer in Great Barrington at 777 South Main St., across from Guido's. The transformation of the 1,600 square-foot space is proceeding rapidly under the capable direction of VIM's general contractor and its two consulting architects, all of whom are volunteering their time and skills. Signage, building materials, carpeting, and paint have been donated as well.

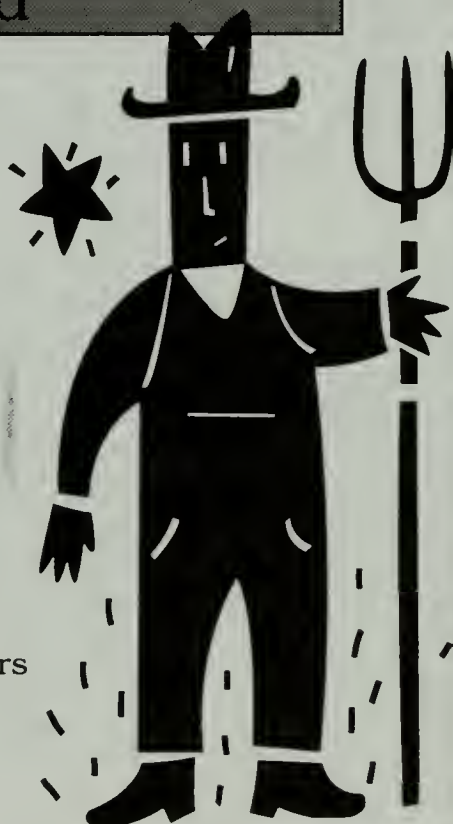
VIM Berkshires will offer free primary medical care, routine dental care and outpatient mental health care to income-qualified uninsured adults, 19-64 years of age, who are ineligible for state or federal medical assistance programs. VIM Berkshires is grateful to the more than 100 healthcare professionals and countless lay volunteers who are eager to volunteer their time to help the medically under-served living or working in the southern Berkshires.

Farmers' Market *of Sheffield*

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ART SHOW FEATURES LOCAL ARTISTS

The work of three South County artists will be on display at The Old Stone Store in Sheffield, May 15 through May 30 (hours: Thursday through Sunday, 11 to 4). "Three's Company," will feature recent artwork by Gloria Malcolm Arnold of Lee, Lois Ryder of Monterey, and Lois Van Cleef of Ashley Falls. The opening reception will be on Saturday, May 15, 1-3pm.

Arnold exhibits in national shows such as Oil Painters of America and the American Artists Professional League. She is listed in *Who's Who in America* and has featured contributions in *The Best of Flower Painting 2* and *The Best of Wildlife Art 2*. Her work can be found in private and corporate collections in the U.S. and abroad.

Ryder works primarily with scratchboard and has received many awards. She is a member of numerous regional art organizations, including the National

Academic Artists Association, and is a signature Member of the Copley Society of Artists in Boston as well as a member of the Sheffield Art League and is an Elected Artist in the Kent Art Association. Ryder is represented by The Lenox Gallery of Fine Arts and Sidetracks of Stockbridge.

Van Cleef uses pastel, water-color and oil to create impressions of people, places and things. She is a member of the Sheffield Art League, the Becket Art Center and is an Elected Artist in the Kent Art Association. She has received many awards and participated in the Bennington, Vermont Center for the Arts "Impressions of New England" show in 2002. Her artwork can be seen at Sidetracks of Stockbridge, the Lenox Gallery of Fine Arts and the Unique Boutique in Cape Cod, or by appointment in her studio, Casa Mia, where she teaches in Ashley Falls.

SUMMER THEATRE COURSES FOR KIDS

Barrington Stage Company is accepting young actors for its Summer KidsAct! program. KidsAct! offers two three-week courses for children ages 8-17. Session 1 runs June 28-July 16 and session 2 runs July 26-August 13. Sessions are Monday through Friday 9am-3pm. Classes are held at Mt. Everett High School in Sheffield.

No theatre experience is necessary. Theatre professionals lead small classes focused on improvisational skills, theatre games, character studies, monologue and scene work, mask work plus dance and movement. Each course culminates in a special production written and performed by students open to friends and family.

Tuition is \$495 per child. Space is limited. Limited scholarships are available. Call Director of Education at 413-528-8806 for more information.

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MARK DEWEY CENTER OFFERS FREE FAMILY RESEARCH

The Sheffield Historical Society offers as a free service the use of its notable Mark Dewey Research Center, overseen by volunteer and amateur family historian Betty Chapin. Betty and her trained assistants can help with most questions about local or regional history or genealogy. They work with people of all ages from middle school students doing independent school-related research projects to seniors exploring their family genealogy. For their efforts, the youngsters seem always to get very high grades from their teachers and the seniors nearly always come away with answers to their inquiry.

An offshoot of an idea from the late Roger Drury in 1989, the Center, is a major depository of primary and secondary material on Sheffield and much of the tri-state area. The Center's oldest document dates to the town's founding in 1733. It is an original copy of its incorporation under George II of England as acted upon by the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony as Massachusetts was then known.

The Center has a nearly complete set of town tax records or "assessors' lists" from the early 1760s to the 1950s. In addition to taxes levied, these documents often give detailed information about early families such as the number of acres held as woodland or under cultivation or planted as orchards. Often the type, number and value of animals are specified, or the worth of retail goods that a merchant has as stock in his store.

Real estate values and taxes, shockingly low by today's standards, are of course given. If you want to know what vehicle your grandfather or great-grandfather was driving, the automobile excise tax records, which start in 1929, could give the answer.

While tax records can be enormously insightful in researching family history, more detailed information can sometimes be gleaned from other primary sources, including: diaries, account books, ledgers, letters, family papers, a complete collection of annual town and school

reports, photographs, maps and newspapers. The Center has material in each of these and other areas.

The heart of the collection may be the more than 700 unique files on Sheffield and area families that have been collected by volunteers or generously donated in the nearly 15 years of the Center's history. Some files date back hundreds of years and contain information that cannot be found anywhere else. These family histories are augmented by vital statistics on births, marriages and deaths that cover all of New England, New York and westward as far as Iowa and Wisconsin. In addition, the Center offers internet access to vast databases. Trained volunteers will assist anybody who wishes to use them.

The collection and one-on-one help are supported in part by the Society's annual appeal. The Center is open Fri. and Mon. from 1:30 - 4:00. Drop in or phone your question to 229-2694, e-mail at mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org or write to the Sheffield Historical Society, Box 747.

—James Miller

HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUCTION

Co-chairs Rene Wood and Jim Miller have already gathered a tremendous collection of terrific items for the first silent auction and giant tag sale to be sponsored by the Sheffield Historical Society. Among the treasures collected so far are linens, fabrics, molas, quilts, original art, china (including a Royal Crown Derby bowl), antiques, mahogany side chairs, housewares, and silverware. Wray Gunn has solicited gift certificates from restaurants and other local businesses. The auction will be held Sat., July 10, at the Sheffield American Legion Hall from 9am-3pm. Early-bird shoppers will be allowed in from 7:30-9am the morning of the sale for a \$10 donation.

Search your closets, cellars, attics, and the backs of cabinets and drawers. What may be trash for you may be treasure to another. All items in the auction and sale are donated especially for this sale. All items except the following can be accepted: clothing (except vintage clothing), books (except first editions and signed volumes), or large household items. All proceeds go to benefit the educational programs of the Sheffield Historical Society and are tax-deductible. (If you wish to claim a deduction, request a "donor contribution form" when your goods are picked up or dropped off.)

Call Rene Wood (229-2875) or Jim Miller (229-8668) to arrange for pickup. Call Wray Gunn (229-2668) to donate gift certificates or new merchandise.

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TOWN ELECTION

Come vote Monday, May 10, 7am-9pm at Town Hall.
The Town Clerk's office is open 9am-4pm Mon.-Fri.
Telephone: 229-8752.

CHURCH NEWS

Vacation Bible School

Old Parish Church UCC and Christ Church Episcopal will be hosting a Vacation Bible School this summer at Old Parish Church in Sheffield. The session will begin on Mon., July 12, and will be held mornings from 9am-12pm. All elementary children in the community are invited to attend. For more information or to register, please contact Pheobe Williams at Old Parish Church (229-8173) or the Rev. Annie Ryder at Christ Church Episcopal (229-8811).

Bereavement Group

So you don't have to go it alone: for those who have lost someone, an open ended Bereavement Group is sponsored by Old Parish UCC & Finerty and Stevens Funeral Home, Wednesday evenings at 7:30 at Old Parish Church on the village green in Sheffield. For more information, call Rev. Art Kaufman, 229-8173, or just come!

SHEFFIELD

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEEDS HELP!

Help! You have always been generous. But right now our shelves are low! We've had families graduate out of the program in the past two months, but at the same time some large families have joined.

You may leave food at the Sheffield Branch of Berkshire Bank or bring to the Old Parish Church kitchen on Monday mornings before 10am. Several churches in town collect and deliver food every week. Undermountain Elementary School also collects, as do the Boy Scouts.

Needed items: canned vegetables, fruit, and soup, baked beans and stews, peanut butter, pasta and sauce, rice, drinks, tea and coffee, mixes, jellies, and custards, and unsweetened cereals, laundry detergent and soaps, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Churches & Services

ASHLEY FALLS

Grace Bible (non-denominational)

355 Clayton Road (413) 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward Eastman, Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)

1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Pastor Betty LeGeyt

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church (Episcopal)

180 Main Street (413) 229-8811 Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & childcare; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

Rte 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Faith Baptist

640 North Main Street (413) 229-0400 Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School; 10:45am Worship Service; 6pm Bible Study; Wednesday: 7pm Mid-week Service; Pastor L.V. Morris.

Old Parish (United Church of Christ)

125 Main Street (413) 229-8173 Sunday: 10am Worship. Rev. Art Kaufman, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)

Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028

Saturday: 5:30pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)

1970 N. Main Street (413) 528-0233

www.sheffieldchapel.org Sunday: 8am & 9:30am Morning Worship; Pastor Chet Howes

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist)

North Street (413) 528-4197 Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

270 State Road (413) 528-6378 Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service; Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Trinity Lutheran

St. James 352 Main Street (413) 528-1330. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday Worship. Rev. George E. Mayer

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire
Meet at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main Street (413) 528-4850; home (413) 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD PLANS RIVER DAY JULY 3

As part of Housatonic River Summer 2004, the town of Sheffield will host a festival day honoring the river on July 3.

Housatonic River Summer is a May-to-October celebration of the upper Housatonic. Under the leadership of the Sheffield Art League, 42 cultural organizations, conservancies and land trusts throughout the Berkshires and northern Connecticut have come together to sponsor the

celebration. There will be festival days, art events, river events and special performances over the next six months in Stockbridge, Kent, Housatonic, Dalton, Pittsfield and other towns on the river. The summer's events will highlight the river as a natural and recreational resource and a literary and artistic inspiration. (For a detailed list of festival days and a complete description of planned events go to www.housatonicriversummer.org.)

GROUPS JOIN TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE RIVER

Sheffield's own festival day, sponsored by the Sheffield Association, Sheffield Land Trust, Sheffield Friendly Union, Sheffield Historical Society, Bushnell- Sage Library and the Friends of the Library, Sheffield Kiwanis Club and Sheffield Art League. Sheffield River Day will

include events both on the river and in town, with river events centered on the Covered Bridge. Proceeds of the festival (less expenses) will be used to enhance recreational uses of the river.

Pat Elsbach and Sharon Gregory are co-chairing the organizing

committee for the Sheffield festival. Events are still being planned and help is welcome. For more information or to volunteer for any of the festival committees, contact Pat at elsbap001@aol.com or Sharon at Sharongregory1@cs.com.

FAMILY FUN RIVER RACE

As part of Sheffield Day, there will be a family canoe and kayak race at 10am. Participants will bring their own boats. Life vests are required.

The race will be limited to 30 canoes and kayaks, first-come, first-serve. Register by mailing the coupon on the back cover and sending entrance fee to Sheffield River Day Fund, P.O. Box 940, Sheffield, MA 01257, or register at 9:30am at the Kellogg Rd. access to the river.

Observers can watch the boats cross the finish line from the Covered Bridge Rd. Although costumes are not required, participants are encouraged to decorate themselves (with funny hats perhaps?) and their boats (Noah's Ark, a native American war canoe or maybe a pirate kayak?). In addition to prizes for the race winners, there will be prizes for the most original costumes, the best-decorated boats, the youngest participants and more. All are welcome! Join the race or cheer them on.

RUBBER DUCKY RACE

At 11:30am on that day, the first-ever Sheffield Rubber Ducky Race will begin. Numbered rubber racing ducks can be rented during May and June at \$2 per duck (or \$5 for 3, \$10 for 8 or \$25 for 20). Send a ducky rental form (see p.11) and cash or a check made out to Sheffield River Day Fund to Sheffield River Day Fund at P.O. Box 940, Sheffield, MA 01257, or leave it in a sealed envelope at the main desk of the library between now and June 30.

The first prize is \$100, the second \$50 and the third \$25.

Other prizes will also be given. Each participant's name will be posted with a list of duck numbers at the bridge at the beginning of the event. The ducks will be launched about 200 yards north of the bridge, and participants can cheer them on to the finish line just south of the bridge. (In the event of cancellation because of rain or other events beyond the control of the organizers, winners will be determined by a drawing.)

Anyone who would like to help with the race should contact Peter and Ellen Rowntree at Pdtree@aol.com.

COMMUNITY PICNIC AND MUSIC TO FOLLOW RACE

As part of the festival day, a community picnic will begin at 12:30pm on land adjacent to the Covered Bridge. Bring your picnic lunch, chairs or a blanket and mosquito spray (just in case). Free hot dogs and watermelon will also be available. Music will be provided by Tom Ingersoll and other local musicians.

The Sheffield Tree project hopes to dedicate a new elm tree at the site of the Covered Bridge during this time. To help the food committee, contact chairwoman Pam Bloodworth at Alfapam@aol.com. Tom Ingersoll can be reached at music@ingernet.com.

OTHER FESTIVAL EVENTS

For kids. During the morning there will be activities for children, organized by June Wolfe.

Events at Sheffield Pottery. Across Route 7 at Sheffield Pottery, Flying Cloud Institute will sponsor a riverbank festival of clay. Advanced students in the Flying Cloud summer program will participate in a geology of clay presentation. There will also be a Raku firing where children can glaze a pot and see it fired and completed in a half hour. For more information, contact Jane Burke at Flycloud@earthlink.net.

Exhibits and more. The Sheffield Art League Juried Art Show at Dewey Hall will be open

that day, with an awards ceremony from 4 -6 pm. All are welcome.

The Sheffield Historical Society will open a new exhibit on July 3, "Life Along the River," at the Old Stone Store. Artifacts found in the banks of the river, an old canoe and other interesting pieces will be exhibited. There will also be photographs of two present day Housatonic River farms taken, developed and mounted by the Mount Everett Regional High School photography class under the direction of Peggy Reeves. The photo exhibit is sponsored by the Sheffield Land Trust and the Sheffield Historical Society in

collaboration with the school.

There will be a special collection of books about the river at the Bushnell-Sage Library. *Art and the River*, a new book of historic and contemporary paintings with essays by conservationists and contemporary and historic art specialists will be on sale at the library as well as at other Sheffield locations during the day. The book is published by the Sheffield Art League and edited by Nancy Goldberger and Andrea Scott. Other materials being produced for the Housatonic River Summer will also be available at the library.

JOIN IN CELEBRATING 'THIS WONDERFUL RIVER'

The Sheffield River Day Committee is grateful to Berkshire Bank, the corporate sponsor for the event and to local donors who have contributed financial support or prizes. Any store or organization that would like to contribute a gift

certificate or specific goods as additional prizes should contact Pat Elsbach or Sharon Gregory.

According to Pat Elsbach, "The Housatonic River has recently been declared one of the most endangered rivers in the country. It would

be splendid if children, their parents and grandparents and all the other residents of Sheffield would join us on July 3 in celebration of this wonderful river."

—Ellen Rowntree

SAVE THE DATE: SHEFFIELD RIVER DAY, JULY 3!
Rubber ducky race: 11:30am

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
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Return entry form with cash or check (made out to "Sheffield River Day Fund") in a sealed envelope no later than June 30, 2004, to the main desk at the Sheffield Library or by mail to the Sheffield River Day Fund, PO Box 940, Sheffield, MA 01257.

You need not be present to win. The winners will be notified at or following the event. The decision of the judges will be final. If the race is cancelled because of bad weather or other reasons beyond the organizers' control, prizewinners will be determined by a drawing.

See Coupon for Canoe Race on Back Page

HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM IS BACK

Mount Everett Regional High School is happy to announce the return of its Building Structures Program, which uses building projects as hands-on learning opportunities for students. The revived program is made possible by a grant from the Pumpkin Foundation and Joe and Carol Reich of Boardman St.

Many of you will remember the program from when it operated in the early 70s. In fact, some of you may live in one of the homes built by the students — they are scattered throughout the Sheffield area.

The Building Structures Program is currently busy with an on-campus project, an addition to the Cyber Café, the yellow building behind the high school near the tennis courts. The addition will house the high school's expanding aquaculture research center. The project has provided an excellent opportunity for the students and staff of two departments to work together, led by Curtis VonRuden of the Building Structures Program and Scott Farrell of the Science Department.

Until recently, the program was limited to projects within walking distance of the Mount Everett carpentry classroom. The \$10,000 grant from the Pumpkin Foundation enabled the program to purchase a 12-foot mobile



Marc Boults, Keith Warner, Ryan Joyce, Jon King, Travis Wieggle, Dan Walsh, and teachers Art Batacchi, Curtis VonRuden, Scott Farrell

construction trailer outfitted with tools from a generator and compressor to ladders and hand tools.

Next year's project will again be a collaborative effort, working with the Sheffield Kiwanis. The club needs a garage-type building to house the equipment they use for their many activities in support of local children. The town is presently considering allowing the structure to be located at the Sheffield Town Park. Several local contractors and suppliers have expressed interest in supporting the Building Structures Program and in helping the Kiwanis with this effort.

Projects for future years will build upon these experiences and culminate in a program to once again build affordable housing. The program will have come full circle.

Several local contractors and citizens serve on the program's newly established advisory board. The members are Thomas Race (chair), Loyi Chan, Paul O'Brien, Kathy Orlando, Glenn Devoti, James MacDonald, James Shiminski, David Smith, John Stookey, Curtis VonRuden, and Joseph Wilkinson.

For further information, call Paul O'Brien at Mount Everett, 413-229-8734, ext. 163, or pobrien@tek2000.net.

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AGRICULTURAL JOB FAIR AT HIGH SCHOOL

On June 15 the Sheffield Land Trust and Southern Berkshire Regional School District are sponsoring an Agricultural Job Fair at Mount Everett Regional High School for all the students in the district. All the students from Mount Everett and Undermountain will be able to attend, along with their parents. The Fair is open to the public as well. It will run from 9am to 2pm on the grounds behind the high school.

A lot of the farmers—both men and women—who grow the delicious food that is making our restaurants famous will be at the Fair to share their expertise. You can meet and talk with them. All will show some of their tools and answer questions, whether you're a high school student or a kindergartner. Some of the chefs who use that food will share experiences and samples of their cooking. Students who are now working in agriculture through 4-H will be participating in the Fair.

Internship program highlighted

Some of the farmers are mentors in the high school's agricultural internship program. You couldn't have a horse when you were growing up? Ever wanted to milk a cow, feed piglets, or climb around in an apple tree? Do you know how to measure the height of a tall tree without climbing it? What's involved with making maple syrup commercially? Or maybe you'd just like to sit and listen to a lively woman tell you stories about a rural way of life that will be forgotten if you don't record it..

All these experiences and many more are open to high school students during an internship in agriculture. Agriculture in south Berkshire County is an exciting mix of cutting edge technology and ancient ways of sustaining the capacity of the earth.

Films and puppets

There will be continuous showings of films about local agriculture made by local artists. One of the films, "Sweet Soil," has had several sold-out bookings at the Triplex. Video students will have a chance to discuss filmmaking with the women who made these films.

Meet the people who are growing
the food
Which feeds our kids
Who go to our schools
Who can learn to grow the food
Which will feed their kids
Who will go to our schools

"Maggie" the puppet will take you on a humorous and enchanting trip through her garden. She and her puppet friends will chat with anyone who asks them questions about their wonderful world of growing things.

If you want to bring a class from one of the other elementary schools, please contact Ann Hanchett for scheduling. For more information call Ann Hanchett at 528-0374. Or look for announcements in the local papers and flyers.

Help for teachers

In her role as coordinator of agricultural education for the Sheffield Land Trust, Ann is also available to work with any of the teachers in SBRSD to help them incorporate agricultural topics into their classroom studies. She has reviewed the Massachusetts Frameworks for likely areas in which to concentrate, but there are possibilities in practically every discipline and age level to raise awareness of our dependence on the land for our sustenance. Ann would welcome your inquiries. Leave her a message at 528-0374.

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VOLUNTEERS AND EXHIBITORS WANTED FOR CELEBRATION

The fourth Annual *Sheffield in Celebration* will run Sept. 10-12 and 17-19. The Sheffield Fair will be Saturday, Sept. 11 from 3-7pm on the Green in the Center of Sheffield. The Ashley Falls Fair on the Green will be Saturday, Sept. 18 from 10am-4pm (see page 20 for more). This year's theme is "Sheffield and the River" in keeping with the Housatonic River Summer 2004 festivities. The Farmers' Market and Heavenly Quilt Show will once again kick off the festivities on Friday, Sept. 10.

David A. Smith, Sr. has joined Kathy Orlando as Co-Chairman of the event with Bruce Howden, Nancy Kreigel, David Prouty, Marion Whitman and June Wolfe rounding out the Steering Commit-

tee. Additional residents are encouraged to join the Steering Committee in planning activities for the 2004 event.

Can't make meetings? There are many other ways to get involved. The Committee is seeking volunteers interested in helping with publicity, food, children's activities, coordinating the music and to help out at the fairs themselves. Local businesses, cottage industries, organizations and vendors are also being sought, as well as classic and muscle cars for the Sheffield Fair. Community support has been and continues to be integral to the success of the *Celebration*.

Have a new idea or want to get involved? Talk with any of the committee members. New vendors

FRIENDLY UNION PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Enjoy a delicious breakfast and support the Sheffield Friendly Union. Join your friends and neighbors at the Annual Father's Day Pancake Breakfast at Dewey Hall on the village green on Sun., June 20, 2004 from 8-11am. Breakfast includes blueberry or plain pancakes with real maple syrup, sausage, orange juice and tea or coffee. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. Children under 6 eat for free. All proceeds benefit the Sheffield Friendly Union.

and exhibitors are encouraged to inquire about space at either site. For the Sheffield Fair, Orlando may be reached at wildkato@aol.com and Smith may be reached at 229-9956. For the Ashley Falls Fair, Howden may be reached at 229-8481.

Mark your calendars, spread the word, and get involved!

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THE FRIENDS AID LIBRARY'S WORK

The Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library, a non-profit group that supports the work of the library, recently gave the town of Sheffield \$6,000 to enable the library to add to its paid staff. Friends' president Patrick Burns, in the letter accompanying the gift, promised an additional \$8,000 to \$10,000 for the fiscal year beginning in June for the same purpose. The library will use these donations to pay the salary of June Wolfe, who has just been hired as Assistant Library Director, a new part-time position. (See article bottom of p. 16.)

Ordinarily, the town pays all of the library's staffing costs—as well as most of its other operating expenses—but it currently does not have the resources to cover new hires. Recognizing that increased library usage necessitates increasing staffing levels, the Friends stepped in to help. Normally, the Friends use the money they raise to purchase additional books and audio and video tapes, computers and other equipment

and furnishings, and they will continue to do this. They also plan to pursue projects such as expanding the library's kitchen facilities on the ground floor next to the program room and improving internet services. If and when the library expands, the Friends can be expected to raise a significant portion of the cost, as they did when the current library building was converted from a school in the mid-1990s.

The Friends raise money in several ways. Most comes in direct gifts from Sheffield residents and others, mainly in response to mailed fundraising appeals. In the past few years over 800 people have given to such appeals. Other fundraising events include flea markets, antiques appraisal nights and the recent birthday parties for local celebrities Inez Flinn and Virginia Drury, which raised over \$6,000 for the library and other local causes chosen by Inez and Virginia. Book sales, including sales of donated books and a percentage of sales of Book Loft books sold at authors' readings at the library, are another important source of funds.

The financial support provided by the Friends is now more important than ever. While the town has been able to maintain the level of its funding for the library, its

**THE BUSHNELL-SAGE
LIBRARY**
(JUST OFF ROUTE 7 IN
SHEFFIELD 413-229-7004)

HOURS

Tuesday	10-8
Wednesday	10-5
Thursday	10-5
Friday	10-8
Saturday	10-5
Sunday	Closed
Monday	Closed

ability to increase these payments to cover cost increases and needed improvements is severely limited. In addition, state funding for Massachusetts public libraries has been cut by 26 percent since fiscal year 2001.

Sheffield should be proud that the town has one of the best and most active libraries in the state for the size of the community. It needs the continuing financial support of library patrons and other residents to maintain and improve its facilities and programs. Donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be made out to "Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library" and mailed to PO Box 487, Sheffield, MA 01257 or dropped off at the library.

—David Steindler

The Friends meet at the Library at 9am usually on the second Saturday of each month. Visitors and prospective members are welcome.

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ONLINE ACCESS TO MASS LIBRARY SYSTEM COMING

If things work out as expected, Sheffield library patrons will soon be able to use the internet to search and order from a vast virtual catalogue of over 30 million books, audio books, CDs and videos held by nearly 1,800 public, academic and private libraries in Massachusetts. Patrons

will also be able to access a large number of full-text magazines, newspapers and reference databases. All they will need is a new bar-coded Sheffield library card—new cards should be issued by the end of this year—and a computer, either their own or one of the library's.

Items such as books will be

physically delivered to the Sheffield library, a process that will normally take only a few days. Others items, including electronic books, many magazine and newspaper articles and reference materials, will be available by downloading to a computer.

— Peter Rowntree

NEW CHILDREN'S SECTION AND PROGRAMS

If you haven't seen the children's section of the Bushnell-Sage Library lately, you haven't seen it. Thanks to a community volunteer and June Wolfe, the new Assistant Librarian, the children's area has a friendlier more accessible look. No longer do parents perusing the New Books or Bookmobile Books have to wonder what their kids are doing back there. Parents can now see all the way from the circulation desk to the reading gazebo in the picture book section. No longer will children and young adults have their attention arrested by a wall of videos. Now kids find a welcoming array of reading tables and books. Videos have taken a backseat.

"That's just the beginning," says June. "We're going to have a lot of

fun with the young readers in this town. We already have an excellent pre-school story hour Tuesday morning at 10am run by the incomparable Eileen Brennan and our own Martha Greene, and I would like to add more." Wolfe proposes a home school story hour, a story hour for family day care providers and an Hispanic story hour. She also plans on beginning a young adult book club. People interested in volunteering to read or in bringing their children should call June at the library 229-7004.

Beginning Saturday May 15, the library will run a contest for young people. They can enter their best schoolwork in three categories—display (posters, expo projects etc.) creative projects (art, poetry or

fiction) or reports. Entries can be made through June 15 and will be displayed. Prizes will be awarded based on age and category. Winners will be announced at the Summer Reading Program Kick-off. The contest is open to anyone under age 18 with a Bushnell-Sage library card. (Parents should note that May 15 is the second day of the library's book sale so they can buy books when they bring their children to the contest or pick them up afterwards.)

Don't have a family library card yet? That's the sweetest part of the deal. The kickoff for the contest is an ice cream social, also on May 15. Sign up for a free library card and get a free ice cream. Already have a library card? Stop by anyway.

RECOMMENDED READING

From Fred Gordon

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Middle of the Night, by Mark Haddon. An autistic English lad with mathematical genius solves the mystery of a dead dog and goes on an incredible journey. Funny, wise, and a real page-turner.

Don Quixote, by Cervantes, in the new Edith Grossman translation. Probably the best novel ever written. The Knight of La Mancha and his squire Sancho Panza are unforgettable characters. Romance, chivalry, farce, delusion, picaresque adventure—it's got it all.

Some Hope, by Edward St. Aubyn, an acerbically witty story of snobbism, cruelty, depravity, and redemption amidst the idle rich of the vapid English upper class. Mordant and malign. It might just appeal to you.

All children's books written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg, including *The Polar Express*, *Jumanji*, *The Stranger*, *The Sweetest Fig*, *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, and *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi*. A master storyteller who limns mystery and magic while stretching the reader's imagination. Definitely not just for kids!

COMING LIBRARY EVENTS

Book sale of used and duplicate books. May 14-15 during regular library hours.

Children's ice cream social (see story opposite). May 15, 10am-2pm.

Gardening symposium. Last year's event was a huge success. This year, well-known gardener Marie Stella Burnes is a featured speaker. May 22, 10am to 4pm.

Author reading. Suzanne Shea will read from her new book, *Shelf Life: Romance, Mystery, Drama and Other Page-Turning Adventures from a Year in a Bookstore*, May 23, 2pm.

Bookmobile Day, May 25.

Author reading. Russell Shorto will read from his new book, *Island at the Center of the Earth: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan, the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America*, June 5, 2pm.

Morris Dancers will perform around the library grounds. June 12, time to be announced.

Panel discussion. The Sheffield Art League will host a panel discussion of artists and essayists on its soon-to-be-published book, *Art and the River: Views and Visions of the Housatonic*, June 18, 6:30pm.

Author reading. Lawrence Davis-Hollander, from the Eastern Native Seed Conservancy, based in Great Barrington, will read from his new book, *The Tomato Festival Cookbook: 150 Tempting Recipes for Your Garden's Lush, Vine-Ripened, Sun-Warmed, Fat, Juicy, Ready-To-Burst Heirloom Tomatoes*. June 19, 3pm.

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO BOOK COLLECTION

Do you drive long distances get tired of listening to the same old things on the car radio? Have you always wanted to read Chaucer or Jane Austen's *Emma* but somehow have never started? Do you need something to engage your mind while you reshingle the barn roof?

A good audio book from the Sheffield Library could be the answer to all those problems.

The library has a large and varied collection of audio books, probably approaching a thousand titles if you count the 100 or so on loan from the Bookmobile at any one time. It includes about 600 or so acquired by Library Director Nancy Hahn when the regional branch of the Massachusetts state library system closed one of its book warehouses a few years ago. The contents were offered to libraries in the region for free on a first-come, first-served basis. Nancy

jumped at the chance and, as one of the first, drove off with at least three station-wagon loads.

Most of those tapes have now been put on the shelves ready for patrons to take them out. More are being added every month. Most audio books are now published in unabridged form, typically read by the author or by actors or actresses.

Fine readers can make books come to life in ways that are not possible were people to read them to themselves. This is particularly true of poetry or lyrical prose. Try Carl Sandburg's *Lincoln: The War Years* read by Dick Estell or Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Books* read by Wanda McCuddon or Homer's *The Odyssey* read by Derek Jacoby.

A good reader, by changes of inflection, emphasis and pace and by using different tones of voice, creates different atmospheres—

calm or threatening, joyful or tense—and can make heroes speak heroically, heroines heroically, villains villainously, and cowards fearfully. Try *The Iliad* read by Ian McKellen (but you will probably want to fast forward over the lists of battlefield dead and how they died) or any of Patrick O'Brien's Jack Aubrey novels read by Patrick Tull or David Case.

And, of course, a reader who is good at dialects or accents can do wonderful things for a book full of characters from different places—for example, the late inimitable Peter Ustinov's book *Monsieur Rene* read by the master himself.

All of these audio books are available at or through the Bushnell-Sage Library. The library's audio book collection is now housed on the northeast corner of the top floor in the stacks closest to the windows looking out on the gazebo.

—Peter Rowntree

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATED

The Library joined with the Sheffield Historical Society on Jan. 19 to present the third annual program in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. More than 60 people attended.

As Edward August Croslear, a Sheffield resident who was a member of the Black Massa-

chusetts 54th Regiment in the Civil War, Wray Gunn told stories of local conditions, including the integration of black students in the local schools. Peter and Ellen Rowntree and Harry Conklin read a portion of the trial scene from Arthur Chase's "Mumbet," a play highlighting that Revolutionary-era black slave's

historic role in winning her freedom.

The Rev. John Lis and Gillian Seidl read from the works of Lincoln and King. Songs from Sheffield composer George Frederick Root and other civil rights songs were led by John James, Dorothy Morosy, and John and Marilyn Wightman.

—Harry Conklin

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

CLEAR YOUR PROJECT BEFORE YOU DO HARM

More and more people are discovering that Sheffield is a great place to live. It has great people, easy access to stores and cultural attractions and beautiful landscapes. The Sheffield Times reported in the last issue that real estate sales are strong, both for existing houses and for land. Unfortunately, demand for real estate is pressuring one of the things that makes Sheffield great—its wilderness and wildlife.

"It's getting so there's nowhere left to build," says Wayne Robbins, Conservation Commission Treasurer. The Conservation Commission Chairman, Paul Sullivan, concurs. "The building pressure has caused people to purchase more marginal land—and that has more environmental concerns."

The result: for more and more building projects in Sheffield, people are required to file paperwork with the town's Conservation Commission before they begin to ensure they don't damage wetlands or habitat for rare and endangered species.

"That doesn't mean before they get the building permit, but before they begin clearing the land," says commissioner June Wolfe. "We've had three cases in the last month where property owners cleared too close

to wetlands, because they were misinformed about the wetland boundaries or the wetland protection laws." The cases involved projects on Route 7; Bear's Den Rd; and Salisbury Rd., which crosses the Schenob Brook wetlands, one of the most protected areas in the state of Massachusetts.

So far, the commission has been able to work with these homeowners by planning wetland replication to undo the damage done, the commission reports. But it is less cumbersome and less expensive for the property owner to file the paperwork first and find out where it is acceptable to clear and to build.

It isn't always obvious that an area is wetlands or habitat for rare wildlife. Maps of Sheffield showing wetland boundaries and endangered species areas are available in Town Hall. The commission also welcomes homeowners and potential homeowners to bring their questions to Conservation Commission meetings the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 7pm in Town Hall. "It might be easier to get forgiveness than permission," says commissioner June Wolfe, "but permission is cheaper."

RECYCLING AND BULKY WASTE

Residents can dispose of unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners and turpentine and used motor oil: May 22, 9-11am at the Lenox Dept. of Public Works. Old latex paint can be dried out and disposed of in regular trash.

Household hazardous waste, such as paint and paint thinners, drain cleaners, old fever thermometers, button batteries and cell-phone and tool batteries, can be taken to the Lee DPW yard, on June 9, 9am-12pm.

Pre-registration is required. Call the Center for Environmental Technology at 413-445-4556 or 800-238-1221 or email jamiec@cetonline.org.

The Sheffield Transfer Station will host three bulky waste collection days in May. A disposal coupon is required. One coupon per household is allowed and may be obtained prior to the collections at the Tax Collector's office in Town Hall, weekdays, 9am to 4pm. You can also obtain a coupon by mail by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope, including your license plate number to the Treasurer/Collector's Office, P.O. Box 367, Sheffield, MA 01257. This is for households only. Collection dates are Fri., May 21, 2-4pm; Sat., May 22, 8am-4pm; and Sun., May 23, 8:30am-2pm. Information: contact David Steindler at 229-2628 or Town Hall at 229-2335.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LOG —Rick Boardman, Chief

- 1/2 Burnt food. Alarm time 3:40pm; in service 4:16pm.
- 1/6 Car accident. Alarm time 4:10pm; in service 5:14pm.
- 1/7 Alarm Halper residence. Alarm time 2:05pm; in service 2:25pm.
- 1/9 Alarm Darr Antiques. Alarm time 12:55pm; in service 1:05pm.
- 1/11 Stand by for Canaan Fire Dept. Alarm time 5:38am; in service 11:09am.
- 1/24 Chimney fire. Alarm time 4:35pm; in service 5:02pm.
- 1/29 Smoke in building. Alarm time 10:05am; in service 11:05am.
- 2/1 Smoke in building. Alarm time 5:25am; in service 5:48am.
- 2/6 Alarm Berkshire School. Alarm time 10:16am; in service 10:40am.
- 2/23 Alarm Mount Everett High School. Alarm time 2:45pm; in service 3:10pm.
- 3/3 Chimney fire. Alarm time 7:00am; in service 7:40am.
- 3/4 Illegal burn. Alarm time 7:31pm; in service 8:10pm.
- 3/7 Car fire. Alarm time 3:40pm; in service 3:45pm.
- 3/23 Alarm Sheffield Plastics. Alarm time 5:43am; in service 6:08am.
- 3/23 Alarm O'Brien residence. Alarm time 11:03am; in service 11:26am.
- 3/25 Chimney fire. Alarm time 6:25pm; in service 7:22pm.
- 4/6 Alarm Mount Everett High School. Alarm time 3:00pm; in service 3:12pm.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: EXCERPTS FROM MEETING MINUTES

12/22—Selectmen Janet Stanton and Richard Kirchner voted to approve Sunday package store sales for PJ's Convenience. Stanton appointed Chairman David Macy to sign any permits for that should come in after the present meeting for Sunday alcohol sales.

They approved a motion to have a pit bull owned by Barry Markham, incarcerated or destroyed due to its vicious nature. Markham was given 10 days to appeal.

Stanton and Kirchner voted to deny a door-to-door solicitation permit to Adelpia Cable.

Stanton questioned how the Highway Dept. was doing and when the new truck was expected to arrive. The Board discussed plowing bills and decided to invite Highway Superintendent Ronnie Bassett to the next meeting to discuss plowing procedures.

Chairman Macy questioned why the Christmas tree was not lit. Town Administrator Bob Weitz said there was a fuse problem and that it had been fixed.

12/29—Ronnie Bassett was present to discuss the subcontractor doing snowplowing. The Board indicated the importance of keeping records of repairs and maintenance for all the trucks and the cost/benefit of keeping older trucks in working condition vs. buying new ones. Bassett agreed to check on options regarding new trucks.

A Sunday alcohol beverage sales permit was approved for the AVC Video Showcase. A street

curb cut permit for Alex Chernysh on Bunce Rd. was approved, contingent on the approval of the Chief of Police.

1/5/2004—Roger and Robert Bronson of Roger Trucking were present to answer questions regarding Transfer Station problems over holidays and weekends, including trash overflow and the need to be able to contact a representative. The Bronsons suggested switching the box on Saturday mornings instead of during the week, to give additional room for weekend trash and that an extra bin could be dropped off. He also said that telephone numbers would be left with Transfer Station employees.

The board discussed updates on Richard Campeglia returning to work. Town Administrator Weitz indicated that no date had been given, though the six-week time period was drawing to a close.

The board adjourned to executive session to discuss strategy in contract negotiations.

1/26—The Board appointed Cheryl Blackburn to the Board of Registrars until the term expiration date. James Golden was appointed Acting Highway Superintendent until Ronnie Bassett, injured in a fall on ice at the Highway Garage, is able to return to work.

Peter Rowntree was present to discuss the proposed Housatonic River Festival planned for July 3—family river race, rubber ducky race, picnic. Rowntree supplied a map and asked for permission to use the land adjacent to the Covered Bridge and to place signs on roadways for the event. He also mentioned that if any money were made from the event, it would go toward the river in some way and asked the Board for suggestions. The Board said they supported the event and would need to discuss insurance with the town Administrator, and

HIGHWAY DEPT.
Spring cleanup reminder.
Don't blow or sweep leaves
or lawn debris into the
road—the Highway Dept.
does not sweep the streets.

that they supported having a police officer available for the event. Stanton suggested that the Sheffield Garden Club be resurrected to plant a flowerbed for the event and that the Baptist Church be contacted for additional parking and to make sure there is handicapped parking.

The Board voted to approve the Sheffield Tree Project in re-applying for the Dept. of Environmental Re-Leaf grant for 2004.

Chairman Macy reminded residents that there should be no parking in the village center during and after snowstorms to facilitate plowing.

Kathy Orlando of the Sheffield Land Trust dopped off a letter that explains the plans of the land trust for the next year. Sheryl Lechner of the Berkshire Eagle asked for an update on The Lantern in Ashley Falls. The Board indicated that the neighbors and the new manager of The Lantern were working things out.

The Board agreed to participate in the Southern Berkshire County Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program for FY2005.

The Board discussed a letter from Stavisky & Kelly, LLP, regarding a transfer of property belonging to Robert C. Chapin on Hewins St. One of the pieces is 1.162 acres and the other 2.338. Kirchner asked for the price of the land as a possible location for a new Senior Center.

ASSESSORS

Tax reminders. Did you forget? Taxes were due May 1! The new preliminary tax bills FY2005 will be going out at the end of July.

Televised Board of Selectmen's meetings can also be seen Sundays at 11:30am on CTSB Cable Chanel 11.
Not all meetings are televised.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

Reminiscing. Chaplain Ray Cooley, director of spiritual services at Masonic Health Care Center in Wallingford, CT, will encourage seniors to share their thoughts on questions such as What did you want to be when you grew up? How did the war affect your life? Ann Shanks will moderate. Monday, May 17, 2pm at Dewey Hall.

Elder Law essentials will be the topic at the Senior Center Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Peppermill Restaurant on Thurs., May 27, noon. The speaker will be Paula K. Almgren of McCormick,

Murtagh, Marcus and Smith, covering topics such as wills, trusts, and keeping assets if a nursing home is in the picture.

Tri-Town Senior Picnic. This year, the Egremont Senior Center will host it at French Park in North Egremont, Thursday, June 17, noon. Entertainment by the popular Amigos, Vinnie and Dave. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Anyone with last names beginning A-M, bring side dishes; N-Z, desserts.

NEWS FROM THE ASHLEY FALLS VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

The Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society is pleased to announce its Spring 2004 calendar:

Memorial Day Weekend tag sale. Sat., May 29. The Ashley Falls on the Green & Off Tag Sale is a great way to clean out your house or garage. Get a space on the green or be on the map at your own place. Or donate items to the Society. The Society will advertise, have signs and a map with your location. Call Bruce Howden 229-8481 to sign up and for information.

Memorial Day parade. It begins on the Green at 8:00am on Mon., May 31, rain or shine (remember last year?). The parade marches to the Ashley Falls Cem-

etry on School Street. After the ceremony please join in front of the Ashley Falls Trinity Methodist Church Social Hall for hot coffee and doughnuts.

90th Anniversary. June 22, 2004, marks the Improvement Society's 90th anniversary.

Fair on the Green. The Ashley Falls Fair on the Green will be held on Sat., Sept. 18, with a rain date of September 19. People are needed to help with this event—call Bruce Howden at 229-8481. This is the event that raises money for the parade and the holiday tree. Join in and make it a great event this year!

—Bruce Howden

THE
SHEFFIELD
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

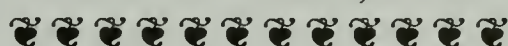
ANNOUNCES

“PIECES OF HISTORY”

SILENT AUCTION & TAG SALE

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2004

American Legion Hall
Route 7 & Cook Road, Sheffield



9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission Free

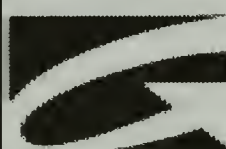
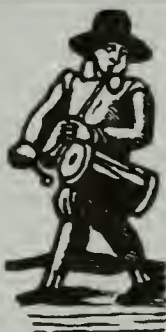
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KIWANIS NEWS

Thanks to Irene McDonald and Hilda Banks Shapiro and all the actors and musicians who gave so generously of their time and talents with the "Best of Broadway" stage production last month. Profits go to the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund.

Softball and golf. The Kiwanis Little League 2004 Season officially opened on April 24-25 at French Park with the annual Pre-Season Tournament. This fun weekend gives the teams a chance to settle into their positions before regular play commences. Our new Little League chairman is Jim Kern, who takes the position formerly held by Cindy Wolfe. The regular major, minor and T-Ball league play concludes with the All-Star Game at the Sheffield Town Park on Sun., June 27.

The annual Kiwanis Golf Tournament will overrun the Egremont Country Club on Fri, June 18, at noon.

Litter patrol resumes. The litter patrol season resumed on April 22. Chair Steve Shmulsky leads his volunteers along two miles of Route 7, from Kellogg Rd. in Sheffield to the Mass Electric lot in Great Barrington on the third Thursday of each month, through October.

Soup kitchen duty. The next Kiwanis turn at the Breaking Bread soup kitchen at St. Peter's hall in Great Barrington occurs on Thursday, May 13. Marge Kirchner, Dave Smith, Sr., Cathy Finkle, Denise Rueger, and Phyllis Pickert form the core of the club's staff. They are ably assisted by other Kiwanians and Key Club members from Monument Mountain High School.

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT & BAKE SALE

Pies, cakes, cookies, afghans, dresses, stuffed toys, and more will be sold in a benefit for the United Church of New Marlborough. The event takes place Saturday May 8, 9am-2pm, at the church, which is located on Norfork Rd. in Southfield next to Buggy Whip Factory. For more information, call Dorris Van Deusen, 229-2310.

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MOTHER'S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Sheffield Firehouse, next to Town Hall off the Village Green, will host a pancake breakfast on May 9 from 7 to 11:30am. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Support your volunteer firefighters!

Kiwanis sponsorships. Kiwanis is proud to sponsor another tree in the Elm Watch program. We financed a sapling just north of Kellogg Rd. on Route 7 last year. This year a larger elm will be planted on Saturday, May 1, near the Old Parish Church on the Sheffield Green. In addition to our regular annual donations to the Ambulance Squad, RIF, Boys and Girls State and other endeavors, we added contributions this spring to the Scott Farrell "Fishery" venture on the Mount Everett campus. We also were able to make a donation to David Grover's National Children's Music Project.

Other news. Following our successful display at the Old Stone Store in March, the Sheffield Kiwanis Club will officially celebrate the 50th anniversary of its charter on Saturday, May 22, at the Egremont Country Club.

The weekend of June 25-27, representatives from Sheffield will attend the International Kiwanis Convention, held this year in St. Louis. A week later Key Clubbers from around the world congregate in the same city. Our club is sponsoring Amanda Dumont, president, and Ryan Hassett, an oratorical winner, to this important youth event.

—Richard L. Goodwin

The Sheffield Kiwanis meets weekly, Tuesday, 6:30pm, Limey's Restaurant.



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BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE PROGRAMS

Volunteer work parties. *Thursdays, April through October, 9-11:30am.* Help clear the Cobble of exotic invasive species. Learn how to identify and conserve our native species. Free.

Bird walk—spring migration. *Sundays through May 30, 7-8:30am.* Birders of all levels are welcome. Bring binoculars. Pre-register. Members free. Non-members: adult \$6, child \$3.

Spring wildflower walk. *Sundays, May 2-16, 10am-12pm.* Learn about our earliest woodland flowers and enjoy their quiet beauty with a naturalist/guide. Pre-register. Members: adult \$4, child (6-16) \$2. Non-members: adult \$8, child \$4.

Life in a vernal pool. Explore life in our spring ponds. Look for frogs, salamanders, fairy shrimp and other fascinating critters. Come prepared to

get a little wet and muddy. Pre-register. Members: adult/child \$3, Non-members: adult/child \$6.

Ecology of a beaver marsh. *Saturdays, May 22 & 29, 10am-12pm.* Explore a wetland created by beavers and look for associated wildlife. Binoculars helpful. Pre-register. Members: adult/child \$3. Nonmembers: adult \$8, child \$4.

Memorial Day canoe trip. *Monday, May 31, 9am-12pm.* Explore wildlife on the Housatonic River with a naturalist/guide. Pre-register. Members: adult \$15, child \$10. Nonmembers: adult \$25, child \$15.

Natural history canoe trips. *Sundays, June through August, 8:30-11:30am.* Paddle the winding Housatonic with a naturalist guide and look for wildlife. Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and

All programs meet at the Cobble on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls unless otherwise specified.

Members attend free or at a reduced rate. For most events, children's rates are for 6-16.

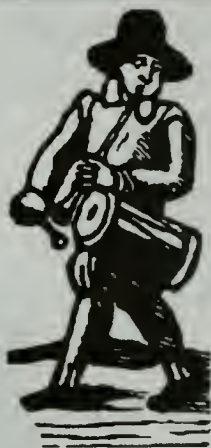
Call 229-8600 for details.

binoculars. Buy a family membership the day of the tour and get 2 adult tickets for the price of one. Pre-register. Members: adult \$20, child (10-16) \$10. Nonmembers: adult \$30, child (10-16) \$15.

Awesome insects. *Saturday, June 19, 10:30am-12pm.* A fun-filled search, strictly catch and release! Led by a grown-up naturalist with a child-like mind. Wear long pants and socks. Pre-register. Members: adult \$4, child (4-16) \$4, family \$12. Nonmembers: adult \$6, child (4-16) \$6, family \$18.

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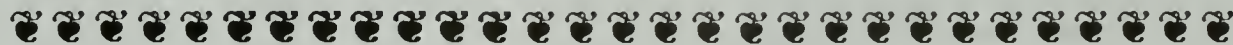
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Reflections redecorates. Reflections Resale Clothing on Maple Ave. is sporting a new look. Manager Andrea Eichstedt and her cousin Donna Agar have repainted the interior with a tropical fusion of tutti-frutti, mango yellow, purple and green. Renovating the changing room is next on Andrea's to-do list.

The store recently added work by local craftswoman Liz Macchi, who creates sterling silver earrings, bracelets and beaded wire bookmarks. In May, Andrea plans to open the store on Sundays, add a Thursday "Ladies' Night" with coffee and pastries, and offer discount dollars, tentatively called "Hot Cash."

Reflections mainly sells used clothes, at prices from \$1 to \$12 for a silver brocade dress. Garments are organized by size and category, and there is a separate room of baby clothes and children's wear. The store also has a small collection of books and accessories. While most customers are women, Andrea sees a growing number of men looking for affordable outdoor work clothes.

Reflections doesn't accept consignments. This cuts down on paperwork and allows the store to keep its prices low. Andrea buys most of her stock from tag sales and other thrift stores. She shops out of town because she's learned that people don't want to be caught wearing an outfit that belonged to someone they know.

Andrea enjoys running a thrift store because "it's low investment, low overhead. It's easy to run, and you get to meet a lot of people. And it's fun to go buying and say

'this would look great on so-and-so'!" If you ask, Andrea will keep an eye out for items by request—a tuxedo, for instance, or dresses in a certain size. —Liz Chaffee

Hair salon moves to town. In February, Mystique opened on the west side of Route 7 in the Sheffield Plain. The salon was previously located in South Egremont, where owner Theresa Smith founded it 14 years ago. The new location features stylist Diane Mucci and nail specialist Kendi Ethier.

Theresa moved her business to Sheffield to have more space and offer the additional services her clients wanted. Pointing to the spacious bathroom, she says, "That's the size of my whole salon before."

The new space boasts three cutting stations, two shampoo sinks, and a private pedicure room. The salon also offers waxing. The decor is serene, with jewel-tone bottles of beauty products, a framed Georgia O'Keeffe poster, and a live orchid gracing a manicure station. Theresa did her own decorating.

The salon features Alterna hemp-based hair care products. "We specialize in one-on-one service, and our customers find the undivided attention very relaxing," Theresa says.

Mystique serves men, women and children. It's open Tuesday through Friday, plus Saturday for nails. Appointments are generally required. Prices start at \$35 for a haircut, \$40 and up for color, \$22 for a manicure and \$45 for a pedicure. —LC

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SHEFFIELD SOD FARM: GRASS AS A CROP

Turning onto Hewins St. in Ashley Falls, you'll see a white house and a big red barn surrounded by an enormous lawn. Fields and fields of lawn. That's the Sheffield Sod Farm, some 400 acres of prime River bottom land run by Bruce and Donna Goodchild. Their customers are contractors, homeowners and landscapers.

Sod is simply grass with the root mass attached. Because of the way sod is harvested, very little topsoil is lost. Donna emphasizes that it's important to give back to the land. The Goodchilds grow the sod in a two-year rotation, alternating with cover crops such as winter wheat and winter rye that are plowed under to enrich the soil.

It generally takes 13 to 18 months to grow and the Goodchilds usually plant in August or September. It's cheaper, Bruce explains, because it takes fewer chemicals. "The cold kills the weeds," he says.

About 150 acres of the Farm is

planted in sod with about 150 acres of hay, 50 of corn, and 30 of oats, plus about 20 of pasture for their small herd of beef cattle. Mark Newman, the Goodchilds' right-hand man, has been with the farm for eight years.

Bruce and Donna rent part of the land from Bruce's grandfather, William Conklin. The rest is rented from Bruce's mother and uncle, Trudie Goodchild and Harry Conklin. Bill Conklin ran the property as a dairy farm. Bruce and Donna both went to school for animal science and initially continued the dairy, they then became interested in raising sod. Bruce took a course in turf management at the UMASS, and they planted their first crop in 1986.

The farm has a large computerized sod harvester, which cuts strips four feet wide, plus a smaller mechanical harvester that cuts two-foot strips and is used mainly as backup. A harvester is like a hay baler mounted on a tractor. A vi-

brating blade moving parallel to the ground cuts the sod into strips, then a guillotine blade cuts the strips into the correct lengths. The strips of sod go up a conveyor belt and are rolled into neat parcels around a PVC-pipe. The pipe allows the rolls to be speared on the tines of one of the farm's two forklifts. Sometimes the rolls are wrapped in net for transportation, but sod is naturally so dense that rolls tend to stay intact without any assistance. The farm delivers within about a two-hour radius.

Bruce and Donna live in the white house with their three children, Thomas, Jessica and Molly. Currently, the Sheffield Sod Farm sells about 50-75 acres of sod each year. Bruce describes the sod market as "fair-but not booming. It never recovered from 9/11-people just aren't spending the money. But we pay our bills (laughs)-we try anyway." The sod farm would like to expand the operations if they could find more land.

—Liz Chaffee

LAND TRUST ANNUAL MEETING

What is your vision for the part of Sheffield that you live in?

Finding out is the theme of the Sheffield Land Trust's (SLT) Annual Meeting this year, celebrating its 15th Anniversary. The meeting will be held on the beautiful hill-top property of Sally Cook, at 665 County Rd on Saturday, June 19 from 10am-2pm.

The regions and neighborhoods of Sheffield have been an important part of the discussion in the formation of the town's Master Plan, and SLT wants to continue that process. Come in the morning and meet your neighbors and talk about the future of your neighborhood and what's important

to you. SLT will provide maps, you provide your views. Then share in a wonderful pot-luck lunch at noon, followed by the business meeting and an inspiring look back at conservation in the region and in Sheffield. After the meeting, there will be an opportunity for those who are interested, to take a guided tour of the property, which the family is in the process of conserving.

Wes Ward of The Trustees of Reservations (the first land trust in the country and owners of Bartholomew's Cobble) and past chairman of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and George Wislocki, co-founder of the

Berkshire Natural Resources Council (the grandfather of all the Berkshire County land trusts) who helped SLT get established in 1989 will speak on the history, accomplishments and challenges of land conservation. SLT president, John Wightman will follow with an update on SLT's work today and then some heartfelt words from host Sally Cook, one of the founders of SLT.

Cook is delighted to be hosting the event which is free and open to the public. Bring your favorite dish for the pot-luck and your own place-settings, please. Drinks will be provided. For more information contact SLT at 229-0234.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

Spring party. The Society hosts its third annual spring party on Sat., May 22, 12-3pm at the home of John and Appy Stookey. On one of the first roads in Berkshire County—the High Road to Great Barrington, now West Sheffield Rd.—the house was an inn, possibly as early as 1734.

Its first owner, Nathaniel Westover, likely designed the 2 1/2 story overhang Georgian structure. It has a massive central chimney and elegant side-lighted front door. Nathaniel and Mary Eno Westover, and their 14 children, born from 1727-1753, made this their home. Nathaniel, in addition to being the proprietor of the inn/tavern, served the town in various capacities including town surveyor, constable, bark measurer, tythingman, surveyor of highways and member of both the school and bridge committees. He died in 1755 in Sheffield, but there is no record of where he is buried.

As you take pleasure in the fare of the Westover inn, you will meet Nathaniel and some of his contem-

poraries. Enjoy the Olde Tymes, indoors and out, in a rare historic and bucolic setting.

Sheffield Tombstone Carvers. James R. Miller will give an illustrated talk on Fri., May 14, on at least two 19th-century stone carvers, Asahel Savage and Richard Paine Brown. Subjects to be covered include pictorial (motif) and letter carving from Sheffield, especially Barnard and Plain cemeteries.

A follow-up walk will be on Sat., May 15. Miller will lead participants through two or three cemeteries, including Barnard and Plain. Meet at SHS at 9:30am. It will last around two hours. \$4 members, \$5 non-members. Space is limited; reservations recommended. 229-2694 to register. Rain date; Sun., May 16, 1pm.

Annual Meeting. It will be held June 11 on society grounds, 7:30 pm.

Exhibits at the Stone Store. April 3-May 9: Redware to Kitchenware is a collaborative showing with artifacts from the Bidwell and the Colonel Ashley

The Sheffield Historical Society is located on Route 7 in the center of Sheffield. Tours of the Dan Raymond House are available Thursday through Saturday 11am-4pm. The new exhibition in the Dan Raymond house is "Sheffield's Chapeaus: Hats from A Bygone Era." The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Monday and Friday 1:30-4pm and by appointment. For further information on Society programs, contact the Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, PO Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, 413-229-2694 or email shs@sheffieldhistory.org

Houses, and the Society. Rare pieces will be on view, including plates, pitchers, and other items. Support comes from Sheffield Pottery, which will also display items relating to the history of the company.

May 15-30: Three's Company, artwork by Gloria Malcolm Arnold, Lois Ryder, and Lois Van Cleef. (See news item, page 7.) Hours: Sat. 10-2, Sun. 11-3, and by appointment during the week. Contact the Society for more info.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY CUTS DIRECTOR'S HOURS

The Trustees of the Sheffield Historical Society have reluctantly voted to reduce the hours of the Society Director from five days to three days per week. The decision, in line with recommendations made by the organization's independent finance committee, came after four years of efforts to contain expenses, which, if continued at the current rate, would have threatened the organization's

financial stability. The society says by judicious use of the director's time and with the additional use of volunteers, it will be able to continue its regular activities, which include programming for school children and adults, holding exhibits in the Old Stone Store, and running the Dan Raymond House Museum and its dependencies and the Mark Dewey

Research Center. "The support of the community in these leaner times is very much appreciated," said John-Arthur Miller, the society's Vice President. "We hope that the Sheffield Historical Society will continue to be an influential force in promoting a wider understanding and appreciation—past, present, and future—of Sheffield's life-story."



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Real-estate transfers

February

- 11 James J. Larkin to Arthur J. Batacchi, Jr., property at 650 West Rd, \$60,000.
- 11 David E. Preston to Frank W. & Ronda Cushwa, property at Berkshire Lake Estates, \$27,000.
- 13 Heather Austin, Primula Babcock & Robert J. Cochrane to Jonathan Ingham, property at Home Rd, \$550,000.
- 13 Peter J. Batacchi to PJB Realty, LLC, property at 69 South Main St, Transfer.
- 23 Melissa J. Curtiss, trustee, the Maple Tree Trust, to Melissa J. Curtiss, \$1.
- 26 Morton E. & Sandra L. Trudeau to Sandra L. Trudeau, property at 276 Lime Kiln Rd, Transfer.
- 26 James L. & Aline J. Roux to James L. Roux, property at 275 Polikoff Rd, Transfer.
- 27 Emilia J. Bassett to Albert J. & Sheila G. Bassett, property at 299 Salisbury Rd, \$135,000.

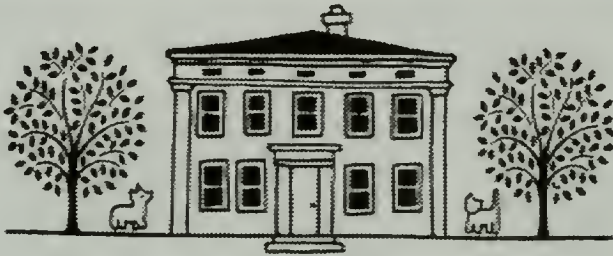
March

- 3 American Stone Mix, Inc. to Old Castle Retail, Inc., property at Clayton Rd, Transfer.
- 4 Louis W. Sinico Jr. to Louis W. Jr & Sheryl A Sinico, property at 131 Hewins St, Transfer.
- 8 Danial A. Watson to Benjamin P. Handy, property at 1609 County Rd, \$258,000.
- 10 John A. Cavalier, Executor, estate of Rosa Cavalier, to Todd M. & Danielle M. Driscoll, property at South Main St, \$100,000.
- 11 Raymond J. Thiesen to Raymond J. & Mary E. Thiesen, property at 232 Salisbury Rd, Transfer.
- 23 Lindsey S. & Marjory G. Crawford to Marjorie G. Pollard, property at 115 Cook Rd, \$35,000.
- 30 F. Del Mintz to Richard K. Jr. & Betsy A. Bassett, property at 251 Salisbury Rd, \$120,000.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Sheffield Land Trust • 15th Anniversary • Annual Meeting

Call 229-0234 for more information.



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W., F. 9-5
Thurs. 12-8
Sat. 8-1



- May
- 7 Farmers' Market Opening Day, Old Parish parking lot, 4pm (p4)
 - 8 Mother's Day Craft and Bake Sale, United Church of New Marlborough, 9am-2pm (p21)
 - 9 MOTHER'S DAY
 - 9 Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast, Firehouse, 7-11:30am (p21)
 - 10 TOWN ELECTIONS, Town Hall, 9am-7pm (p9)
 - 14 Book Sale, Library
 - 15 Book Sale, Library
 - 15 "Three's Company" Art Show opening, Old Stone Store, 1-3pm (p7), runs through May 30.
 - 19 Sheffield in Celebration meeting, Limeys, 7pm (p14)
 - 21 Bulky Waste Collection, Transfer Station, 2-4pm (p18)
 - 22 Bulky Waste Collection, Transfer Station, 8am-4pm (p18)
 - 22 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Lenox DPW, 9-11am (p18)
 - 22 Kiwanis 50th Anniversary Celebration, Egremont Country Club (p21)
 - 23 Bulky Waste Collection, Transfer Station, 8:30am-12:30pm (p18)
 - 29 Memorial Day Weekend Tag Sale, Ashley Falls Green (p20)
 - 30 Memorial Day
 - 31 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED - Parades in Ashley Falls, 8am, and Sheffield (p20)

- June
- 5 Mt. Everett Graduation
 - 6 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Lee DPW, 9am-12pm (p18)
 - 11 Sheffield Times deadline for July/August Issue
 - 15 Agricultural Job Fair, Mt. Everett High School, 9am-2pm (p13)
 - 18 Kiwanis Golf Tournament, Egremont Country Club, noon (p21)
 - 19 Sheffield Land Trust Annual Meeting, 665 County Rd, 10am-2pm (p24)
 - 20 FATHER'S DAY
 - 20 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast, Dewey Hall, 8-11am (p14)
 - 27 All-Star baseball games, Town Park (p21)
 - 28 KidsAct!, Mt. Everett High School, weekdays, 9am-3pm, through July 16 (p7)

- July
- 3 Sheffield River Day Festival, Kellogg Rd & Covered Bridge, 9:30am-2pm (p10)
 - 3 Life Along the River Photo Show, Old Stone Store, 4-6pm (p11)
 - 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

SEE ALSO: Churches & Services, p.9 ♦ Library, p.15
♦ Senior Center p. 10 ♦ Bartholomew's Cobble, p. 22
♦ Historical Society, p. 25 ♦ Barrington Stage, p 7

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

(Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by reference - i.e. 1st, 3rd indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed.)

Mondays:

- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am (p.9)
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd, 4th
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd

Tuesdays:

- Council on Aging, Dewey Hall, 9am, 3rd
- Physical Fitness Class, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am
- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 6pm - 8:30pm
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
- Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm

Wednesdays:

- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7:30am - 12:30pm

Thursdays:

- Parent-Child Playgroup, Grace Bible Church, 9:30-11:30
- *Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd
- Physical Fitness Class, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9:00am
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th
- Master Plan Steering Committee, Town Hall, 7pm (p1)

Saturdays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

See also the ongoing above

May

- 3 Footcare with Nurse Kelley, 9 am
- 17 Reminiscing with Chaplain Ray Cooley, Dewey Hall, 2 pm
- 27 Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, Peppermill, noon

June

- 17 Tri-town picnic, French Park, noon

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THANKS TO SHEFFIELD RIVER DAY SUPPORTERS!

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Sheffield Historical Society
Sheffield Water Company
The Loring Gallery

—The Sheffield River Day
organizing committee

Place
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SAVE THE DATE: SHEFFIELD RIVER DAY, JULY 3!

Canoe & Kayak Family Fun Race

Launch: 10am at Kellogg Rd., Sheffield

Registration: 9:30am day of the race

OR PRE-REGISTER TODAY!

SHEFFIELD RIVER DAY CANOE & KAYAK RACE ENTRY FORM

ENTRY FEE: \$5 PER BOAT

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

NAME _____ PHONE _____

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TOWN OR CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Return entry form with cash or check (made out to "Sheffield River Day Fund") in a sealed envelope to the main desk at the Sheffield Library or by mail to the Sheffield River Day Fund, PO Box 940, Sheffield, MA 01257, or register the day of the race, 9:30am at the Kellogg Rd. entrance to the river.

Participants provide their own boats. Personal flotation devices required for all in boat.

SEE PAGES 10-11 FOR MORE ON THIS GREAT EVENT

**Sheffield
TIMES**

Community Newsletter for
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA
P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257
sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com